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## Message from the Mayor

Times are good for tourism in the Nation's Capital. As I announced last week, in the past year, our city's thriving economy has been fueled by growth in our second-largest industry – tourism. Last year was truly an outstanding year for the tourism industry and 2005 appears like it may be an even better year – perhaps one of our best since 1998.

The spark in tourism can be attributed to many factors. Last year, we witnessed the opening of two major new attractions in the National World War II Memorial and the National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall. Add to that list the Marian E. Koshland Science Museum in Gallery Place. We also welcomed a new addition to the National Archives and a new military history exhibition at the National Museum of American History. Our Washington Convention Center is also a top attraction, luring business travelers from around the globe.

Given the long-list of must-see sights, great restaurants and cultural treasures, it's no surprise that Washington, DC currently ranks among the top five most visited destinations in the United States. Even more than most cities, our city was initially hurt by the effects of September 11, but we've pulled out of that slump and are now back on a record-setting pace.

In 2004, our city welcomed 17.7 million domestic visitors, representing an 8.3 percent increase over 2003 levels. Leisure travel to our city increased 9.8 percent, while business travel grew by 6.3 percent. Visitors also spent more money during their stays; average overnight trip expenditures saw a 3.9 percent increase.

Last year we welcomed more than one million international visitors, a 22 percent increase over 2003 levels, maintaining our position as the 8th most popular U.S. destination for international visitors. Including international travelers, a total of 18.75 million visitors were attracted to Washington, DC last year.

Twenty-five percent of all visitors came from Washington, DC's top four markets: New York (12 percent), Philadelphia (5 percent), Atlanta (4 percent) and Los Angeles (4 percent). Combined, these top four markets accounted for 30 percent of all leisure hotel stays; New York led the leisure category with 17 percent of all overnight hotel stays.

I believe the best is yet to come. Our planned ballpark for the Washington Nationals on the Anacostia Waterfront will be a huge draw for visitors. Gallery Place continues its expansion, with the exciting recent addition of the Woolly Mammoth Theatre and a new Clyde's restaurant on the way.



## Accolades for Office of Boards and Commissions

I am pleased to inform readers that the District's Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC) has been chosen to receive this year's Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) Program Award. This is truly an honor for the hardworking staff in the OBC, and I'm proud of all of them, including director Ronald R. Collins.

The award will be presented at the CLEAR annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona during the general session on September 16.

The Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation is an international resource association for professional and occupational regulation stakeholders. It is affiliated with many of the national professional and occupational board organizations. CLEAR was conceived more than 25 years ago as a resource for any organization or individual involved in the licensure, non-voluntary certification or registration of hundreds of regulated occupations and professions. Since its inception, CLEAR's membership has included representatives of all governmental sectors, the private sector, and many others with an interest in this field.

Through its conferences, publications, training, inquiry and other services, CLEAR helps its members carry out their shared mission of consumer protection. CLEAR has defined its own educator role as proactively identifying critical issues; providing a dynamic, interactive forum for exploration of these issues and collecting and disseminating relevant information on them. There are three core areas of substantive inquiry that CLEAR supports through its annual conference and other venues: professional discipline; credentialing/examination issues; and policy and administration.

This award is a testament to the hard work, loyalty, dedication and professionalism of all the OBC staff in facilitating and executing my appointments to more than 150 boards and commissions and all that goes along with that task. I'm proud that the staff is committed to continuing their hard work, loyalty, dedication and professionalism and that this hard work has been recognized by an outside, independent, professional organization.

For more information on CLEAR, please visit: <http://www.clearhq.org/>

## Revitalizing the Anacostia Metrorail Site

Last week, I was pleased to announce what I think will be a huge opportunity in bringing revitalization east of the Anacostia River.

As some of our readers know, at one end of our waterfront we have a tremendous anchor in the upcoming US Department of Transportation headquarters. At the other end, however, sits the long-neglected Anacostia Metrorail site. My goal is to strengthen and revitalize the area around the Anacostia Metrorail site, creating new jobs and new opportunities for residents.

To put the wheels in motion, in July I sent a letter to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) proposing that we team up to revitalize the long-neglected site. In the letter, I proposed that the District redevelop the Anacostia site as a mixed-use center. It would include shops, apartments and District government offices.

I am pleased the recently-formed Anacostia Waterfront Corporation (AWC) is locating its headquarters east of the river. I believe the AWC headquarters could be part of a government center at a redeveloped Anacostia Metrorail site.

In the letter, I proposed that WMATA relocate its headquarters to the site as a component of the overall project. I believe this could be a wise economic decision and a forward-thinking move for WMATA. With our downtown office market at its strongest in decades, WMATA could reap the enormous benefits of our vigorous real estate market by relocating its offices to Anacostia. I have requested that the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation lead this initiative on my behalf.

For me, the bottom line is that we're making tremendous progress east of the river, but I believe that its best days are yet to come.

I'm pleased that Ward 8 Councilmember Marion Barry is lending his support to the proposal. And joining me to announce the plan were At-Large District Councilmember Carol Schwartz; Andrew Altman, CEO of the AWC; Dan Tangherlini, Director of the District Department of Transportation and Gladys Mack, Vice Chairman of WMATA.

For more information about the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, please visit: <http://www.anacostiawaterfront.net/>



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership  
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial  
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding  
Alerts

## Public Safety Efforts Pay Off

I'd like to share with our readers some progress we're making as a result of redoubling our efforts in public safety with the Metropolitan Police Department. Our city experienced an almost 18 percent reduction in crime last year. That followed a 9 percent drop in crime in 2003.

An important facet of this trend is that the benefits were shared by residents across the city. Crime dropped in every major category and in each of the seven police districts last year. Through the hard work and vigilance of many, the trend is continuing this year. While we still face challenges, crime is down more than 14 percent through June 2005 over the same period in 2004.

And as members of Congress debate the repeal of our handgun ban with total disregard for home rule, the number of homicides in the District continues to fall. Homicides fell by more than 20 percent from 2003 to 2004. Last year, we ended the year with fewer than 200 homicides for the first time since 1986. In the first six months of 2005, the number of homicides has dropped by another 4 percent over the same period in 2004.

Our MPD Chief Charles Ramsey has cited a number of factors behind the dramatic decline in homicides. They include: strategic deployment of police as a result of daily computerized crime briefings and increased community involvement in community policing. Chief Ramsey has also pointed to positive economic trends in the District and the support of other city agencies in combating the conditions that can lead to crime through the "hot spots" initiative and regular "Operation Fight Backs."

The MPD is a leader in community policing, with literally thousands of residents involved each month in neighborhood safety. The department does this through regular community meetings, neighborhood watches and patrols, and participation in online "listservs." Working with our partners in the federal government, the MPD has also developed a number of new programs and enhanced capabilities in the areas of anti-terrorism and emergency preparedness.

For more information on MPD's recent public safety efforts, please visit: <http://mpdc.dc.gov>



## District Activities



Mayor Williams helps present tickets to children at RFK stadium for the Nationals game against the Padres that evening. Pictured with him is Nationals relief pitcher Hector Carrasco.



Mayor Williams participates in a taping for Channel 16's *InStyle Washington*. The program saluted the top chefs and restaurants recently honored as the "Best of the Year" at the 2005 Rammy Awards.



Mayor Williams helps new homeowner Mila Hernandez cut the ribbon on her newly redeveloped house, which is part of the District's "Home Again" Initiative.



Mayor Williams marks the Call Center's millionth service request by helping out with graffiti removal.

## Community News

- [Mayor Williams Tours Newly Redeveloped Property Under "Home Again" Initiative](#)
- [Mayor Celebrates Millionth Service Request by Helping with Graffiti Removal](#)
- [Kaiser Permanente Donation Keeps Public Pools Open, Free to Use Through September 2006](#)

## Upcoming Events

[View All News Releases](#)

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|------|---|
| 8/19 | <b>Mayor's Cup Invitational Amateur Boxing Tournament</b><br>6:30 pm<br>Kennedy Recreation Center<br>7th and P Streets, NW  |
| 8/20 | <b>Youth-Sponsored Community Health Fair</b><br>12 pm – 4pm<br>Ft. Davis Recreation Center<br>1400 41st Street, SE  |
| 8/26 | <b>Department of Employment Services Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair for Plumbers and Sheet Metal Workers</b><br>10 am – 1 pm<br>Naylor Road One-Stop Career Center<br>2626 Naylor Road, SE |

